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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 6th meeting, on 16 May 2018, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

"Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters."

2. For its consideration of agenda item 4, the Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2018/2-E/CN.15/2018/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2018/3-E/CN.15/2018/3);

(c) Note by the Executive Director on the adjustments to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2018/12-E/CN.15/2018/14).

3. The Director of the Division for Management made an introductory statement.

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4. Statements were made by the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Japan, the United States, China, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

5. The observers for Iraq and Algeria also made statements.

A. Deliberations

6. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. They noted that the working group served as an important mechanism to enhance transparency and accountability and to enable a constructive dialogue between Member States and UNODC.

7. A number of speakers expressed appreciation for the targeted, specialized technical assistance of UNODC and underlined the importance of field-based programmes, as well as the need to continue and strengthen existing technical assistance programmes.

8. Several speakers expressed concern about the difficult financial situation faced by UNODC in view of the decrease in general-purpose funds and the concurrent increase in special-purpose funds. One speaker noted that UNODC should not become a donor-driven organization, as that would have a negative impact on the establishment of its priorities and the ownership of its core mandates. Some speakers expressed the view that the core activities should be funded from the regular budget.

9. Several speakers expressed support for the adjustments made by UNODC to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and, in that regard, welcomed the proposal to allocate programme support costs in a more flexible manner. UNODC was encouraged to continue its efforts to increase transparency in its dialogue with Member States during the budget-formulation and decision-making process.

10. Several speakers mentioned the need for a broader, more flexible and more transparent use of programme support cost funds at headquarters and field offices, as appropriate, and noted that such an approach would help to maintain the delivery of UNODC activities in the field. Reference was also made to the importance of close coordination between headquarters and field offices, with the aim of avoiding duplication of projects and promoting efficient and effective management.

11. UNODC was encouraged to continue to evaluate and report on the challenges affecting the financial viability of field offices, as well as project delivery and administrative practices, in particular full cost recovery implementation. A number of speakers encouraged UNODC to engage with Member States in a collaborative process on these budgetary issues.

12. Several speakers welcomed the Office's engagement with the reform agenda of the Secretary-General and asked to be kept informed as the process unfolded. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of UNODC to engage with Member States on issues related to the United Nations reform processes (management reform and reform of the development system), and it was proposed that a standing item on those reform processes be included in the agenda of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

13. Several speakers underscored the importance of research for the effective functioning of UNODC, while expressing support for the revised budget. One speaker called for greater discussion of research-related subjects at meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

14. Several speakers acknowledged the efforts of UNODC to promote equitable geographical distribution and gender parity among staff. Several speakers highlighted the importance for the Office to make further efforts in that regard, including at the

most senior levels. The importance of doing so while bearing in mind Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations was also noted. UNODC was encouraged to implement its Gender Equality Strategy and to update it regularly.

B. Action taken by the Commission

15. At its 6th meeting, on 16 May 2018, the Commission adopted a resolution entitled "Budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund", as contained in E/CN.7/2018/12-E/CN.15/2018/14, annex II (for the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. C, resolution [...]).